

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 828

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Richard Pickell on the occasion of his induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Richard Pickell, who will be inducted into the TSSAA Hall of Fame on March 15, 2008, a fitting recognition of the admirable legacy he has created in Tennessee high school sports; and

WHEREAS, a former Lenoir City High School basketball star, Mr. Pickell was the starting guard on the 1958 basketball team and contributed significantly to the team's impressive season and state title; his stellar performance garnered him an honorable mention to the All-State team; and

WHEREAS, during the next season, Richard Pickell was the team's captain and led it to the state tournament, earning himself recognition as a possible All-American High School team member and a member of the All-State third team; and

WHEREAS, this gifted athlete also played on the Lenoir City High School baseball team for three years as its third baseman; and

WHEREAS, he continued his basketball career at Tennessee Tech University and then transferred to Tennessee Wesleyan, where he led the basketball team as its captain during his final season; and

WHEREAS, following his admirable career as a player, Mr. Pickell began coaching basketball at Oliver Springs High School and then at Harriman High School, where he led teams to the district title five times, the district championship game a total of twelve times, the regional

title five times, and the regional championship game a total of six times. His teams also won the state title once, participated in the state tournament three times, and made six sub-state tournament appearances; and

WHEREAS, winning a total of 562 games throughout his career, Richard Pickell earned numerous awards, including the District Coach of the Year three times, the 1995 East Tennessee Coach of the Year award, and the 1995 Tennessee Coach of the Year award; in recognition of these accomplishments, the Harriman school gym was named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his dedicated contributions as a basketball coach, Mr. Pickell also served thirty-seven years as a teacher; and

WHEREAS, Richard Pickell is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of forty years, Jean, and his two sons, Travis and Wesley; and

WHEREAS, he evinces his devout religious faith as an active member of New Midway Baptist Church, where he serves as the Deacon and Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pickell epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Richard Pickell for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Richard Pickell for his induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame, as we extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.